



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 016354.0202

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
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John BARANOWSKI) Examiner: Brian D. NASH
)
Application Number: 10/601,674) Group Art Unit: 3721
)
Filed: June 24, 2003) **Confirmation No.: 8447**
)
For: DISPENSING SYSTEMS AND)
METHODS)

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF GROUP REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In an Office Action mailed February 4, 2005, the Office Action identified the following allegedly, patentably distinct groups and requested that Applicant elect one of these groups for prosecution in the above-captioned patent application:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	1-28	Drawn to an apparatus for dispensing items in Class 53, Subclass 235
II	29-40	Drawn to a process for dispensing predetermined quantities of items to containers in Class 53, Subclass 473

In response to that Office Action, Applicant respectfully elects Group I (claims 1-28), with traverse.

Remarks:

According to the MPEP, a restriction between inventions is appropriate only when the inventions are shown to be distinct and when there would be a "serious burden" placed on the examiner to examine more than one invention in the same application. "If the search and